

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00594 211240Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FOR CU/EE AND EUR/EE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SCUL, OEXC, PFOR, OVIP, BU
SUBJECT: PAPAISOV VISIT TO US

REF: A) STATE 048916; B) SOFIA 0327

1. WITH NAMING OF DR. FRANK PRESS TO BE PRESIDENTIAL
SCIENCE ADVISOR AND DIRECTOR OF QIZ HOUSE OFFICE OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY, WE HOPE IT WILL BE
POSSIBLE TO EXTEND FORMAL INVITATION IN NEAR FUTURE
TO NACHO PAPAISOV, CHAIRMAN OF GOB COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
TECHNICAL PROGRESS AND HIGHER EDUCATION TO VISIT
WASHINGTON IN LATE SPRING. AS DISCUSSED IN THE SEVERAL
PREVIOUS MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT, DR. PAPAISOV, WM
HOLDS MINISTERIAL RANK, WOULD CONCLUDE MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING WITH NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND VISIT
APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

2 IN THIS CONNECTION, WE HOPE FOR EARLY REPLY FROM
NSF TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY GOB AS REPORTED REF B.

3. WITH REGARD TO CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND PROGRAM SIGNING,
DESPITE HIS HAVING RAISED POSSIBILITY THIS MIGHT BE
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ACCOMPLISHED IN MARCH, CHAVDAR DAMYANOV STILL HAS NOT
COMMUNICATED FINAL GOB APPROVAL OR FINAL BULGARIAN TEXT.
WE ARE TOLD HE IS CURRENTLY ON SICK LEAVE AND HIS SECTION
OF MFA IS UNABLE TO ACT IN HIS ABSENCE. WHILE HE MAY
INDEED BE ILL, WE SUSPECT GOB MAY ALSO Q DECIDED TO
STALL SIGNING UNTIL IT HAS A CLEARER PICTURE OF HOW
AMERICAN-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE LIKELY TO EVOLVE IN THE

NEAR FUTURE. BUT EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT, FOR OUR PART, WE SHOULD MAINTAIN A "BUSINESS AS USUAL" STANCE AND PROCEED TO ISSUE FORMAL INVITATION TO PAPAZOV.

4. WE ALSO CALL ATTENTION TO LYUDMILLA ZHIVKOVA'S VISIO TO NEW YORK IN EARLY JUNE FOR OPENING OF THRACIAN EXHIBIT AT METROPOLITAN. AS STATED IN OUR PARM (SOFIA 0584), AND PREVIOUS MESSAGES, ZHIVKOVA SHOULD BE INVITED TO MAKE APPROPRIATE VISITS AND CALLS IN WASHINGTON, AND ARRANGEMENTS ALSO MADE FOR VISITS TO OTHER CULTURAL CENTERS AND INSTITUTIONS. PROBLEM OF INVITATION IS CMPLICATED, OF COURSE, BY HER RANK AND RELATIONSHIP TO CHIEF OF STATE. IN OFFICIAL-INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS, WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT VISIT TO WASHINGTON A FEW YEARS AGO OF FORMER SOVIET CULTURAL MINISTER FURTSEYVA BE EXAMINED FOR PRECEDENTS. TIME IS GROWING SHORT AND WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DEPT'S VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ASAP.
FELDMAN

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